In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving data from a plurality of ports for processing by a plurality of processes including at least one thread, comprising:

assigning, with a scheduler thread, one of the plurality of ports to one of the plurality of processes including at least one thread;

determining that additional data is available from the assigned port; and

awaiting notification by the one of the plurality of processes that processing of the additional data has been completed prior to re-assigning the port to one of the plurality of processes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining if data is available from one of the plurality of ports.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting one of the plurality of processes.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

directing transfer of the data from the assigned port to the one of the plurality of processes for processing.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein selecting comprises:

determining if any of the plurality of processes is available to process the data; and

if it is determined that one of the plurality of processes is available to process the data, choosing an available one of the plurality of processes.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

recording the port-to-process assignment on an assignment list.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

removing the port-to-process assignment from the assignment list upon receiving notification that the processing has been completed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data comprises packet data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the packet data comprises a network packet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the packet data comprises a predetermined portion of a network packet.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the network packet comprises an Ethernet packet.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of ports comprises a 10/100 BaseT Ethernet port.

13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable instructions for receiving data from a plurality of ports for processing by a plurality of processes including at least one thread, the instructions causing a computer to:

assign, with a scheduler thread, one of the plurality of ports to one of the plurality of processes including at least one thread;

determine that additional data is available from the one of the plurality of ports; and

await notification by the process that processing has been completed for the additional data prior to re-assigning the one of the plurality of ports to one of the plurality of processes.

14. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 13, wherein the article further comprises instructions causing a computer to:

determine if data is available from one of the plurality of ports.

15. (Original) The article of claim 13, wherein the article further comprises instructions causing a computer to:

select one of the plurality of processes.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions to select one of the plurality of processes comprises instructions causing a computer to:

determine if any of the plurality of processes is available to process the data; and

choose an available one of the plurality of processes if it is determined that one of the plurality of processes is available to process the data.

17. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 13, wherein the article further comprises instructions causing a computer to:

record the port-to-process assignment on an assignment list.

18. (Previously Amended) The article of claim 17, wherein the article further comprises instructions causing a computer to:

remove the port-to-process assignment from the assignment list upon receiving notification that the processing has been completed.

19. (Withdrawn)